

SUCCESS STORY Innovation Is In Our Nature

KING COUNTY YOUTH SUMMIT AIMS TO INCREASE INVOLVEMENT IN AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Event Description:

The planning committee for the third annual King County Youth Summit set a lofty goal for themselves- to include youth from around King County and to host 17 different workshops (on topics chosen by the youth) followed by a resource fair so that young people could find organizations that they might want to become involved with, a dinner, and an arts showcase by youth. They succeeded.

The workshops included offerings on civic engagement, health, education, refugee/ immigrant issues, and youth violence. Three of the 17 workshops were solely youth-led, and the planners of the event hope to increase that number next year.

Results:

This year's attendance of 153 youth more than doubled last year's summit. Young people from 43 different zip codes registered for the event, including an increase in youth of color who participated. 95% of youth attending said that they were "Somewhat to Absolutely" more aware of youth opportunities in their communities. Of the youth surveyed, 88% agreed or strongly agreed that this year's summit was a good use of their time and that they would like to attend next year. Young attendees were asked what type of organizations they would most like to get involved with. The leading response was community service, followed closely by leadership, health, environmental, and social justice. Education was ranked as the leading issue that youth would like to try to personally impact, with youth violence coming in second. The youth reported that they would like be involved with future workshops that deal with fundraising and how to use media resources for their projects.

King County Community Organizing Program helped to support this event with funding for event promotional materials, as well as helping to ensure that youth councils around the County were invited to the event. This event seemed to resonate with the participating youth, and they have plans to hold the fourth annual King County Youth Summit in the spring of 2012.



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